

lotter addressed to a young physician about a hundred years ago, even now however applicable to their standard of the eternal fitness of things, by the celebrated court physician, Dr. Mead. The entire letter is such a biting satire on the unprofessional device of that, and this day, that we regret having to abridge it. The curious may find it in a work published more than thirty years ago, entitled, "Physic and Physicians."

"That which gives me great hopes of you, Dr. Timothy Van Bustle, M.D., M.R.C., &c., &c., is your resolution to go on and push into practice at all hazards. You know *audaces fortuna juvat*, the more you search the less you will be satisfied; and when arrived at the top of all, you may, with Solon, conclude that all your wisdom (comparatively with real knowledge) is in knowing nothing,—whereas, if you only skim the surface, you will go boldly on and fancy your knowledge ten times more than what it really is. Thus, then, the great and principal thing you ought to be qualified with is the *formula prescribendi*; for form is now the main chance, whether in law or physic, and without that there is nothing to be done; this is the business, the alpha and omega, the all in all; some will succeed and some won't; 'tis hit or miss, luck's all, you are paid, go which way you will. And now you are arrived in town, the first thing I advise you to do is to make all the noise and bustle you can, to make the whole town ring of you if possible, so that every one in it may know that there is such a being, and here in town, too, such a physician. It signifies little which way it be, so it be done, and that your name be known and heard of. A very famous oculist has told me that he must starve did he not frequently put himself in the public prints. The old and the simple, the riotous, the whimsical and the fearful are your most proper company, and who will provide you with the most business, there being far less to be got by the wise and sober. If your wife should happen to mind business in her way, it will certainly also increase yours. Let your religious and political opinions swim with the tide, especially when fashionable. Let not your fingers be sacrilegiously defiled, but be very gentle of taking fees of the clergy. Don Quevedo is of opinion, that the best way to run into business, is to run into debt, because your creditors will employ you to get paid. As to putting this experiment into practice, I shall rather choose to leave it to your

own natural genius to direct you therein, than much to persuade you thereto, since there may be danger should it not succeed. The last thing I advise you to do, is to get acquainted and cheerfully to keep company with all old women, midwives, nurses, and apothecaries, as they will be entertaining you in the way of your business; and as the old ladies are most subject to ailments, they will be acquainting you with the same, consequently you are to make the most of it, and never to make light or slight the least complaint."

BLOODLESS OPERATIONS.

The method recommended by Dr. Esmarch, of Kiel, for preventing hemorrhage during operations is likely to prove of great value to the profession. It has been tried in many of the hospitals in Great Britain and Germany with great success. The plan consists in bandaging the limb about to be operated upon from the extremity upwards a short distance above the seat of operation, with a strong elastic bandage applied so tightly that all the blood is forced out of it. A strong rubber band fastened with steel clasps is then twisted firmly round the limb just above the bandage, the latter is then removed and the operation proceeded with. The application of the elastic bandage renders the limb quite exsanguine and the rubber band arrests further circulation in the limb, so that the operation may be proceeded with, almost without the loss of a single drop of blood. Prof. Billroth, of Vienna, has tried it in fourteen cases, in twelve of which the result was complete and successful, the cause of failure in the other two cases being the difficulty of properly applying the apparatus so as to exercise sufficient circular compression; one of these cases was disarticulation of the femur at the hip and the other an operation for the relief of deformity, arising from a burn. Operations have also been attempted without chloroform under the supposition that local anaesthesia as well as local anemia might be produced by the constriction, but so far these experiments have not been satisfactory, the pain of the operation being distinctly felt by the patient. It has been suggested, however, that further experiments in this direction should be made. The plan of Esmarch has been put in operation in St. Thomas' Hospital, London, England, by Dr. Mc-